

Cedar River impairments

The Cedar River is the major tributary of the Iowa River and it is also facing major pollution problems. There are 7 segments of the Cedar River on the 2004 impaired waters list representing 86 miles or about 31% of the river. The impairments to the Cedar River include 5 segments where recreational uses are impaired by bacteria, 2 segments that are impaired because of declining mussel species, and one segment at Cedar Rapids where the drinking water use is impaired because of high nitrates.

List of Cedar River Impairments

Location on Cedar River	Length of river segment	Cause of Impairment	Use Impaired	Comments
Cedar Co. from Rock Run Cr. to Hwy 30 bridge at Cedar Rapids (Linn Co.)	30.3	indicator bacteria and biological	primary contact recreation and aquatic life	DNR ambient monitoring found E coli bacteria exceeds recreation use standards. ISU mussel surveys found greater than 50% decline in Mussel species compared to past surveys.
Linn Co., Hwy 30 to Prairie Cr.	6.8	indicator bacteria	primary contact recreation	DNR ambient monitoring found E coli bacteria exceeds recreation use standards.
Linn Co., from Prairie Cr. To McCloud Run	4.6	indicator bacteria	primary contact recreation	DNR ambient monitoring found E coli bacteria exceeds recreation use standards.
Linn Co., Cedar Rapids water intake to Bear Cr. at Palo	11.6	nitrate	drinking water	DNR and Cedar Rapids Water Dept monitoring documented worsening trend with increasing nitrate levels
Black Hawk Co., from Wolf Cr. To LaPorte City Bridge crossing	1.4	indicator bacteria	primary contact recreation	DNR ambient monitoring found E coli bacteria exceeds recreation use standards.
Black Hawk Co., Cedar Falls Impoundment	1.5	indicator bacteria	primary contact recreation	DNR ambient monitoring found E coli bacteria exceeds recreation use standards.
Floyd Co., from Rock Cr. To IA/MN state line	30.2	biological	aquatic life	ISU mussel surveys found greater than 50% decline in Mussel species compared to past surveys.